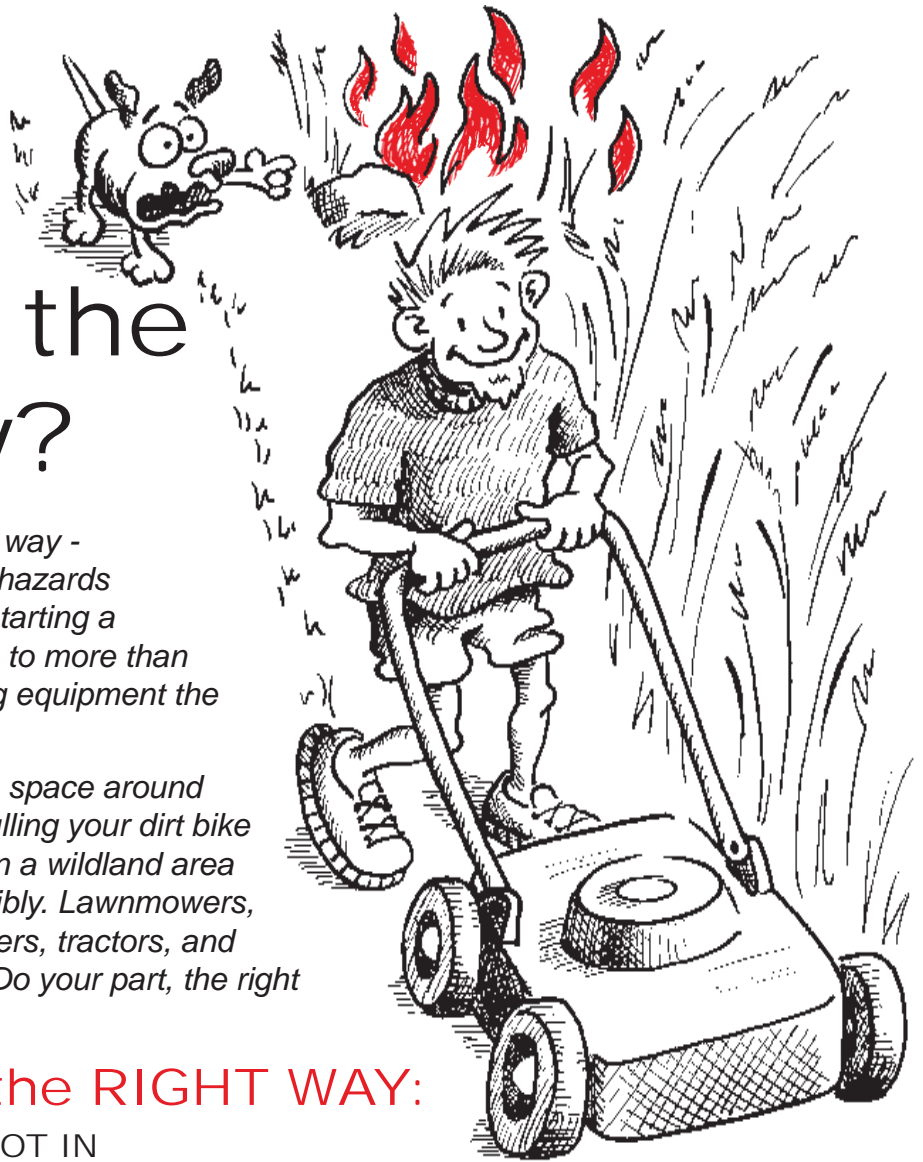# Are **YOU** doing the right thing the wrong way?

Are you doing the right thing the wrong way - for example, trying to eliminate the fire hazards around your home and in the process starting a wildland fire? Each year CDF responds to more than 1,600 fires started by Californians using equipment the wrong way.

Whether working to create a defensible space around your home, just mowing the lawn, or pulling your dirt bike over to the side of the road, if you live in a wildland area you need to use all equipment responsibly. Lawnmowers, weedeaters, chainsaws, grinders, welders, tractors, and trimmers can all spark a wildland fire. Do your part, the right way, to keep your community fire safe.

Here's how to do it the RIGHT WAY:

- Do your clearance before 10 a.m. **- NOT IN THE HEAT OF THE DAY, OR WHEN THE WIND IS BLOWING!**

- Lawn mowers are designed to mow lawns. **NEVER** use lawn mowers in dry vegetation. Use a weed trimmer to cut down dry weeds and grass.

- Remove rocks in the area before you begin operating any equipment. A rock hidden in grass or weeds is enough to start a fire when struck by a metal blade.

- **In wildland areas**, spark arresters are required on all portable gasoline powered equipment including tractors, harvesters, chainsaws, weedeaters, mowers, motorcycles, and All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs).

- Keep the exhaust system, spark arresters and mower in proper working order and free of carbon buildup. Use the recommended grade of fuel and don't top off

- Keep the engine free of oil and dust, and keep the mower free of flammable materials.

- **In wildland areas**, a permit may be required for grinding and welding operations, and spark shields may be required on equipment. Be sure to have 10 feet of clearance, a 46" round point shovel, and a backpump water-type fire extinguisher ready to use.

- Hot exhaust pipes and mufflers can start fires you won't even see - until it's too late! Don't pull off into dry grass or brush.

- Keep a cell phone nearby and call 911 **IMMEDIATELY** in case of a fire.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT of FORESTRY and FIRE PROTECTION

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